

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - David Key  
Servers - Ralph Burleson  
Greg Lowery  
Blake Eddy

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Katie Berryhill

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Stressed Out



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Surveying Ships in Scripture**

By Hiram Kemp

Many fathers have taken their children on a boat to fish and to enjoy some time together. There is something calming about being on the water and away from the stresses and the problems of daily life. As one climbs into a boat or a ship and pushes off from land, there is time for enjoyable conversation, memories made and lessons learned. Throughout Scripture, God gave His people lessons from individuals on ships. In both the Old and New testaments, major Bible lessons are taught from ships as God dealt with sin, worry, faith and discipleship. Notice a few lessons we learn from some ships in Scripture.

**God Punishes Sin & Extends Grace**

As the wickedness of man increased in the earth during the days of Noah, God decided to cleanse the world with a global flood (Genesis 6:5-13). He was going to punish the rampant evil that was taking place and start over with a new family. As God was planning to destroy the wicked, He was not going to punish the righteous as well. God does not punish the righteous for the deeds of the wicked (2 Peter 2:9). Noah found “grace” (“favor,” ESV) in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8). The first ship in Scripture shows us that God will punish evil but that He also extends grace. It is interesting to observe the same Hebrew word used for ark in the account of Noah is the same word used for the basket in which Moses’ mother placed him during the days before the Exodus (Exodus 2:3-5). The deliverance of God’s people from Egyptian bondage began with an “ark,” just like the one God used to deliver his people from the world of unrighteousness in the days of Noah.

God promised that disobedience would be punished, and He kept his promise (Genesis 2:16-17). Throughout Scripture, we are given small glimpses into the wrath of God as He punished different generations for their sins. Yet, in all of the punishment about which we read, we should remember that our God is a God of grace (Exodus 34:6-7). God will do the right thing and rescue the righteous in times of trouble. While righteousness was hard to find in the days preceding the worldwide deluge, Noah still found grace in God’s eyes. God is always looking to extend grace toward His people. We learn this as Noah built the ark and was remembered and rescued by His God (Genesis 8:1).

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury, please keep him and family in your prayers

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Tammy Dodd: recovering from recent stroke, please pray she makes a full recovery

Jeff Upton (Donna Martin’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Tyler Upton: is in Atlanta going through rehab for injuries received in an automobile accident, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Winfred York: doctor said he was able to remove all the cancer from his bladder, please continue to pray for him and Mrs. Vertie

Larry Eads: (member at Carbon Hill) diagnosed with stage 4 esophagus cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Cody & Amber Corkren’s unborn baby will have tests to determine if his kidney is functioning at Children’s in February, so they can come up with a plan for when he is born in March.

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Carl Dunlap: needs back surgery but is having seizures, please pray that the seizures can be controlled and that he can have the surgery to help his back

**Upcoming Events**

Today Country Place 2:00 pm

**You Can Run but You Can’t Hide**

Though the Assyrians were the enemies of Israel during the days of Jonah, God sent Jonah to Nineveh (the capital of Assyria) to preach to those individuals (Jonah 1:1-2). Jonah was sent to cry out against the wickedness of the city, but instead he boarded a ship and tried to run in the opposite direction (Jonah 1:3). Of course, Jonah’s attempts to escape God’s presence were futile. God is everywhere at all times. God sees everything and knows everything. We can go as deep or as high on earth as we choose, and still God is there (Psalm 139:7-11). The Lord sent out a great wind to get Jonah’s attention and to get him to see the error of his way (Jonah 1:4). Jonah’s shipmates cast lots and came to understand that the danger they were in was because of Jonah. Jonah called for his shipmates to throw him overboard, and when they did, the sea calmed (Jonah 1:11-15).

Jonah thought he could run from the Lord, but he was wrong. Many pagan gods in the Old Testament were believed to have special ability on land or sea (1 Kings 20:23, 28). The God of Israel was never to be seen as being more powerful on one type of surface versus another. He was just as knowledgeable about affairs on the land as He was about things taking place on the sea. All things are naked and open before him (Hebrews 4:13). We, like Jonah, may think we can do things of which God is unaware, but may we learn from Jonah’s ship that we cannot. If we are committing “secret sins” (Psalm 90:8), we should be reminded that nothing is a secret before God (Jeremiah 23:24). If we are doing what is right, we should remember that God sees this as well, and He will reward us openly (Matthew 6:4, 6). When we read the account of Jonah, we learn that no matter where we run in this world, God reigns!

**Peace Is Provided in Perilous Times**

Once Jesus was on board a ship with His disciples. There was a great tempest in the sea, and the ship was covered with waves (Matthew 8:23-24). As Jesus slept, His disciples woke Him and begged for Him to save them as they believed they were about to perish (Matthew 8:25). The word translated “perish” means to suffer destruction or to be ruined (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus awoke and challenged their faith. Did they really believe He would allow them to perish in His presence? He then rebuked the winds, and there was a great calm. Then, there was great astonishment among those who saw what took place (Matthew 8:26-27).

Jesus taught us from this ship that when we think God is unconcerned or unaware of our circumstances, we are wrong. God pays attention, and He watches over His people. We just need to trust Him. The disciples showed their faith was still in a stage of infancy as this time of peril caused them to doubt and despair. Trials make us stronger, if we allow them to do so (Romans 5:2-5; James 1:2-4). Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea, giving His disciples peace in the midst of danger. We should remove worry from our hearts and replace it with prayer, knowing that Jesus provides peace for us today (Philippians 4:6-7).

### **Shine Your Light Even in the Dark**

After Paul appealed to Caesar before Governor Festus, he was on his way to Rome (Acts 25:11). Paul found himself on a ship with 276 other passengers, and many, if not all of them, were non-Christians (Acts 27:37). While on the ship, Paul took every opportunity to let his light shine. He warned them of the impending shipwreck that had been revealed to him by the Lord (Acts 27:9-10, 21-24). Paul encouraged those who had not eaten in fourteen days to eat something, and he prayed for the food (Acts 27:33-36). Paul spoke confidently in his faith in God and how God had revealed to him the coming destruction of the ship, although He would save all the human lives aboard it (Acts 27:15). On this ship, the apostle taught that we might find ourselves surrounded by faithless people, but we can still have faith. In fact, we must (Hebrews 11:6). We should pray openly, speak freely about God, help others and shine our light (Matthew 5:13-16). Paul did this, and he stood out from the crowd and found favor in their eyes (Acts 27:43).

### **Conclusion**

The Bible speaks often about ships and journeys taken. There are many lessons to learn as we read these accounts. We should see ourselves in these various accounts and seek to avoid the mistakes many individuals made. These things were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). Let us be wise enough to learn!

Obtained at: [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)

### **No Need to Walk Alone**

By Gary C. Hampton

What is the worst of foes that wait on age?  
 What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow?  
 To view each loved one blotted from life's page,  
 And be alone on earth, as I am now. {Lord Byron}

Widows and widowers rank high among the people for whom I pray regularly. I can see their eyes light up when they speak of a departed mate. I also seem to see the hurt of loneliness. I cannot tell them I know how they feel, but I can point them to Psalm 139.

The singer of Israel, likely David, realized God is present everywhere. He expressed this by asking two rhetorical questions. "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" (139:7). He confidently answered, "If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me" (139:9-10).

Jesus knew the Father was always with Him. "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me" (John 16:32). He expressed it on the cross in his dying moments. "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit'" (Luke 23:46). The Father did not leave his soul in Hades, but raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:31-32).

Jesus delivered the Great Commission immediately before ascending into Heaven. He followed those instructions with a great promise, "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). The writer to the Hebrew Christians declared, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Loneliness brings darkness into many lives. God's children can overcome it because they are not walking life's path alone.

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